1964

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EASTERN DEPARTMENT

GENERAL

E 1073/98

FROM G. N. Jackson
Kuwait
to Mr. T. F. Brenchley

SECRET

No. 1039/64

Dated March 24

Received April 1.

SUBJECT:

Assurance by Sheikh Jabir al-Ali that oil supplies to the West would not be affected in the event of Western reaction to Arab measures against Israel.

References

-/81

MINUTES

Arabian Dept

Eth D

(Mr Jamieson)

This is a very useful statement. Let us hope the Kuwaitis will stick to this line.

7/4

13/4

13/4

(Printing Instructions)

(Outward Action)

(Action completed)

13/4

(Main Indexed)

2/66

SECRET

(1039/64)

BRITISH EMBASSY,

KUWAIT.

March 24, 1964.

-1 APR 1964

E1073/98

Dear Frank,

At the end of the conversation with Shaikh Jabir al-Ali, which I have reported separately in my letter 1041/64 of March 24, he assured me that whatever propagandist noises might be made about cutting off oil supplies to the West in the event of Western reaction to Arab measures against Israel, the Kuwait Government had no intention of doing this. In the first place it would put an immediate stop to their own development and cut off the source of their wealth and influence; and secondly it would be counter-productive in that the effects would be felt almost exclusively by Western Europe. The Americans, who were in any case "the principal backers of the Zionists"could get along without Kuwaiti oil. The full brunt of the Arab denial would be borne by Western Europe, and that would probably range popular Western opinion on the side of the Zionists. This certainly could not help the Arab cause.

2. Shaikh Jabir al-Ali assured me that this question had been discussed within the Sabah family and that he was reflecting the general consensus of their conclusions.

I am copying this letter to Bill Luce, Colin Crowe and Harold Beeley.

Yours ever,

Noel Jackson.

(G. N. Jackson).

T. F. Brenchley, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign Office,
LONDON S.W.1.

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